



## **Fish and Wildlife Conservation**

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

# **Barron County**

### ***County characteristics***

- 864 square miles
- Mixture of farmland, wetland, and forest.
- Northwoods character in north and east, rolling hills and southern farmland and forest in south.
- 369 lakes, 39 classified trout streams, headwaters of the Red Cedar River.
- Western range of the Blue Hills.
- There are 45,633 residents living in Barron County.



### ***State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing***

- 8000 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas and DOT wetland mitigation sites.
- 7800 acres open to hunting

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_lands\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html)

### ***Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you***

- 1 Wildlife Biologist; 1 Fisheries Biologist; 2 Conservation Wardens; 2 Customer Service Representatives.
- Barron Field Office and Cumberland Service Center.
- Wildlife, Fisheries and Customer Service staff also serve Polk County.

### ***Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars***

- Comprehensive fish surveys on the Chetek Chain of Lakes 2001, Lower Turtle Lake in 2004, Red Cedar, Hemlock and Granite Lakes in 2005, Beaver Dam Lake in 2006 and Rice Lake in 2007.
- Comprehensive walleye and muskellunge stocking evaluations on 4-8 lakes per year.
- Fish surveys on over 100 stream sites in 2003-2004.
- Wild brook trout restorations on Spring, Lower Pine, South Fork of Lower Pine and Lightning Creeks and the Hay River in 2004-2007.
- Restoration of 4,000 feet of stream habitat on Turtle Creek and the Yellow River since 2001.
- Develop 3,000 acres of wetland/grassland habitat to benefit waterfowl and grassland dependent wildlife. Manage 2,000 acres of forest for wildlife, watershed, and recreational benefits.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as building and maintaining parking areas. Maintain trails for hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature study.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, *Activities Continued*



geese, pheasants, wild turkey, bald eagles, osprey, trumpeter swans, furbearers, amphibians, and small mammals.

- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Partner with conservation organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited and Wild Turkey Federation, to develop, manage, and maintain wildlife habitat on private land.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations, sportmen's clubs, and civic groups. Wardens worked with local residents to start the Rice Lake Indianhead chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow.
- Wardens work with local sport clubs to create a kid's fishing mentor mentoring program.
- Wardens annually schedule a kids fishing program on the Saturday of free fishing weekend.
- Wardens speak to Barron High School seniors on conservation law enforcement topics that mesh with students' class projects.
- Wardens have issued over 200 civil and criminal citations for fish and game violations.

## ***Barron County Conservation Snapshots***

7 DNR maintained boat landings  
900 acres of waterfowl flowages  
18,000 acres of public forest  
10 Deer, Bear & Turkey Registration Stations  
17 Wildlife and fisheries properties



## ***2003 Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 381,573 small walleye fingerlings
- 149,000 brown and brook trout small fingerlings
- 939 muskellunge large fingerlings

## ***County Success Stories***

- Over 70 miles of streams were reclassified or classified as trout water from 2003-2004.
- Installation of two disabled fishing access points on Prairie Lake and Turtle Creek.
- Renovated angler parking areas on the Yellow River Fisheries Area.
- 500 acres of wetland have been developed or restored in the last 10 years. Extensive numbers of waterfowl migrate through or nest in the area, including the endangered trumpeter swan.
- Wild turkeys are well established in one of the most northern zones in the state.
- 350 acres of DOT wetland mitigation sites have been seeded with warm season grasses to provide waterfowl nesting cover adjacent to restored wetland sites.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects on the Barron County Forest.

## ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

***Want to Learn More? Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)***

March 2005